MAGNETIC SURVEY DATA AVAILABLE PRIOR TO THE WORLD MAGNETIC SURVEY EFFORT OF THE IQSY

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ABSTRACT

Given are the distributions of magnetic survey information available from all sources since 1900. The data are tallied according to distribution by area and decade, and according to component measured. Recommendations are made on the basis of these studies for specific surveys during the IQSY. (1964.0 - 1966.0)

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TABLES

- 1. Number of points per 10° block of latitude-longitude
 - a. Declination
 - b. Inclination
 - c. Horizontal Intensity
 - d. Vertical Intensity
 - e. Total Field
 - f. Total Observations
- 2. Number of observations per 10° block by decade
 - a. 1900-1909
 - b. 1910-1919
 - c. 1920-1929
 - d. 1930-1939
 - e. 1940-1949
 - f. 1950-1959
 - g. 1960-1961
- 3. Number of component observations per year
- 4. Number of component observations per kilometer of altitude
- 5. Area of latitude-longitude Blocks

FIGURES

- 1. Number of observations per 10^5km^2 (data 1900-1961)
- 2. Number of observations per 10^5km^2 (data since 1955.0)

I. INTRODUCTION

In an attempt to obtain the most accurate reference field possible for future use in reducing satellite data, all available magnetic survey data are being collected for incorporation into a computer program that produces a set of spherical harmonic coefficients which fit the data. The purpose of this report is to assess the data presently available and to make recommendations for additional acquisitions.

II. SOURCES

The major portion of the present information has been supplied by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey which provided a punched card copy of the data from which their 1955 charts were derived. These are observations dating from 1900 which have been accrued from approximately 500 sources. As with all data in this report, an attempt was made to differentiate between originally observed values and those which were computed, so that the basic data would consist only of observed values. Due to the wide variety of sources, this deletion was not always feasible but, on the basis of the information available, some editing was done as follows:

- (1) The horizontal and vertical intensity values were eliminated from USCGS measurements,
- (2) In addition, the vertical intensity value was dropped from surface observations if a particular datum contained values for inclination and horizontal intensity, and was from a source other than a U. S. observatory.

Since analysis of these observations will also involve studies of secular change, it was deemed desirable to delete values which had been reduced to epoch. On the basis of this premise some 21,300 observations from a Russian publication* which had been reduced to epoch 1940 were removed from the main block of data with the hope that it may be possible to replace them with the original data.

Data were also received from the U. S. Oceanographic Office. These 32,000 observations were the result of Project Magnet, an airborne survey in which measurements of F, I, and D were averaged over five minute intervals along track lines covering most of the northern hemisphere other than the Soviet Union and China.

A third source of information was the Canadian Department of Mines and Technical Surveys which, since 1953, has conducted an airborne survey, mainly in that North American area, resulting in nearly 12,000 H, Z, and D observations (5 minute averages).

The Geophysical and Polar Research Institute of the University of Wisconsin has provided about 2400 observations of total field in the area around the South Pole.

^{*} Compounded systematic catalog of magnetic determinations of the general magnetic survey of the USSR, 1931-1942, Scientific Research Institute of Terrestrial Magnetism, 1947.

The Southern and Indian Oceans, and the South China Sea were surveyed by the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition with a ship-towed magnetometer. Their report (Nagata, et al, 1961) supplied another 5000 observations of total field, approximately half of which have been incorporated in this summary.

Total field measurements from the Vanguard III satellite (1959 Eta) comprised the sixth major source of data. The 85 day active life of the proton precession magnetometer provided 2797 observations over South America, Southern Africa, Australia, California, and the east coast of the U.S. (Cain, et al, 1962).

III. DATA PENDING

In addition to the data covered by this report, a set of total field readings obtained on cruises of the R/V Vema from 1959-62 and compiled by Lamont Geological Observatory are currently being processed. This will add 3600 observations in southern ocean areas.

Arrangements are being made in conjunction with the USCGS to receive from the Geophysical and Polar Research Institute of the University of Wisconsin a more recent series of total field observations in the Arctic and Antarctic areas.

IV. DISTRIBUTIONS OF DATA

The above sources of data were converted to a standard format and recorded on magnetic tape. Each of the 152,424 observations was written with information regarding its position (latitude and longitude in degrees, altitude in kilometers) and time (in Julian

days and fractions of a day since 1900), plus the measured values for one or more components of the magnetic field. This tape was scanned and the data were tabulated in the following ways:

- (1) By component and area Tables 1 (a) through 1 (e) show the number of points in each 10° x 10° block of latitude and longitude for observations of declination, inclination, horizontal intensity, vertical intensity, and total field. Longitude numbers refer to the eastern boundary of the block (i.e. the longitude block labeled-160 extends from 170°W to 160°W). The values from these five tables were combined to give the totals which appear in Table 1 (f).
- (2) By decade and area In order to determine how frequently and how recently a particular region had been covered, the data were divided into 10 year blocks and the latitude longitude distribution was compiled for each decade. Table 2 (a through g) displays these figures which, as with Table 1 (f), represent the sum of all component measurements. Most of the polar data has been accrued since 1950 and, although the total number of points (57527) already accumulated in the present decade is great in comparison with previous years, there are vast regions over the ocean areas and over the Soviet Union where no new data are available.
- (3) By year A more general breakdown in time is given

in Table 3 where the number of points for each component is tallied for each year.

(4) By altitude - Although the preponderance of data are surface observations, recent airborne surveys have supplied considerable data up to 7 or 8 kilometers. This distribution is shown in Table 4. Total field measurements taken by the Vanguard III satellite provided data in the region from 510 to 3750 km. altitude (Cain, et.al., 1962).

V. DENSITIES OF DATA

The large difference between the amount of surface area covered by a 10° square at the equator and a similar square in polar regions made it desirable to use another method for illustrating distributions. The number of square kilometers in each block was calculated using the formula:

$$A = \frac{2 \pi R}{360/\Delta \psi} \qquad \left[\sin (\Theta + \Delta \Theta) - \sin \Theta \right]$$

where R (earth's radius) was taken to be 6371.2 km, $\Delta \Psi$ and $\Delta \Theta$ were 10° , and Θ was the latitude of the southern boundary of the block. These areas are listed in Table 5. Dividing the number of points in each block of Table 1 (f) by the area A for that block gave the number of observations per square kilometer. These figures were multiplied by a scale factor of 10^{5} to produce the results displayed in Figure 1.

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DISTRIBUT	STRIB

TABLE 3

1962 1960 1961 1961	1952 1953 1954 1955 1956	1945 1946 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950	1931 1932 1933 1935 1936 1938 1940 1940	YEAR 1900 1900 1900 1900 1900 1900 1900 190
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				TOTAL 1875. 1496. 2058. 2058. 2058. 2586. 2586. 3372. 3007. 3007. 3047. 5774. 5877

TABLE 4

ALTITUDE DISTRIBUTION

Altitude (km)	Declination	Inclination	Horizontal	Vertical	Total Field	Sum
0 (surface)	78243	38948	43294	6044	2741	169270
0-1	704	842	201	204	1084	3035
1-2	2202	1997	642	899	3040	8549
2-3	18281	16051	6199	6289	18677	65497
3-4	9229	7736	3532	3662	8559	32718
4-5	1673	1757	389	417	1920	6156
5-6	1665	1956	15	17	2043	5696
2-9	3811	3959	19	24	3986	11799
7-8	158	168	0	0	168	494
>8(satellite)					2797	2797

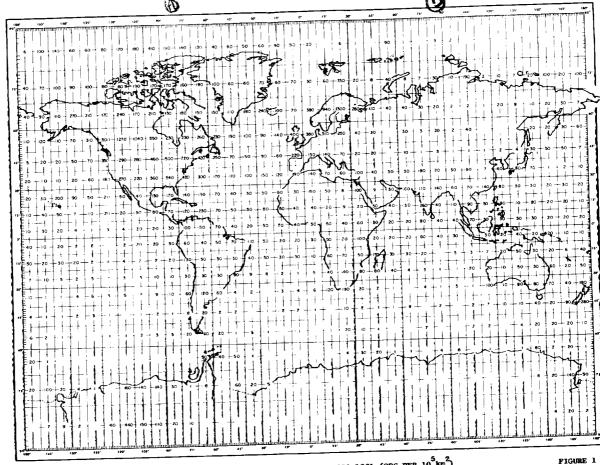
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Thus, for an equatorial block, where one degree equals 111 km, a value of 1000 for a 10^{0} block would represent data points at an average of approximately 10 km intervals. It can be seen from the figure that the density in areas near the magnetic poles compares favorably with that over most of the larger land masses. The numbers above 10 are rounded to the nearest $10 \ \left[\text{obs/} 10^{5} \ \text{km}^{2} \right]$.

TABLE 5

LATITUDE	AREA	(10 ⁵	km)
0°-10°]	12.3	
10°-20°	1	11.9	
20°-30°]	11.2	
30°-40°]	10.1	
40°-50°		8.7	
50°-60°		7.1	
60°-70°		5.2	
70°-80°		3.2	
80°-90°		1.1	

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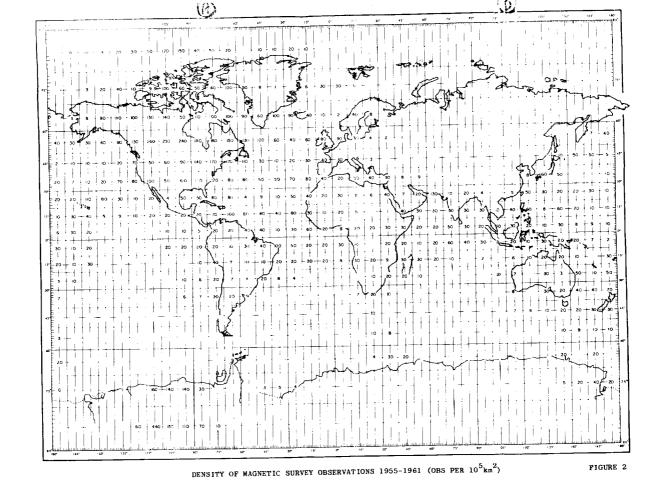
DENSITY OF MAGNETIC SURVEY OBSERVATIONS 1900-1961 (OBS PER 10 km²)

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VI. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE SURVEYS

Vestine (1961) has suggested that data obtained since 1955.0 be considered as part of the World Magnetic Survey. Figure 2 shows the density of data per $10^5~\mathrm{km}^2$ in 10^0 squares since 1955, and hence, by Vestine's criterion, a tabulation of the coverage already achieved by the WMS. In order to obtain the desired accurate representation of the field at ionospheric altitudes and above, a minimum grid spacing of 100 km should be achieved. This would mean raising the numbers in each block of Figure 2 to 12 or more. It can readily be seen from this figure that there are large areas over the globe where this minimum criterion is not yet met. Detailed recommendations for new surveys must of course be made bearing in mind not only the density of observations in a given area but also such considerations as the usefulness of past observations, the existence of data taken but not available, and known firm plans for surveys. The usefulness of past observations is a complex subject involving not only their accuracy and space-time distribution but also the rates of secular change. The needs can thus best be defined in relation to given areas. The purpose of this report is to be a general guide and not to delve into these questions in great detail.

The most striking gaps in Figure 2 appear in the southern hemisphere. It points out that to equalize the distributions it would be useful to concentrate the major efforts in these



areas, even if some of the high density areas were temporarily neglected. A point worthy of mention in this connection is that almost all of the data south of $30^{\circ}S$ latitude is scalar B as a result of proton magnetometer measurements by ship, aircraft, and satellite. There is indication that the Zarya data (Benkova and Tyurmina, 1961) will be helpful in filling in the gap in the Indian Ocean and in some regions of the south Atlantic down to about $40^{\circ}S$. The rest of the vast regions of the Pacific and Antarctic need much further work.

The region of the Asian landmass is one where, hopefully, it will be possible to obtain data already in existence but not yet published.

There are also surprising gaps over other regions such as South America, Africa, Australia and Greenland where one would normally expect a better coverage. It is hoped that this report will be useful in bringing forth existing data in these and other areas.

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